GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:793
ANSWERED ON:27.11.2006
NEW VARIETY OF WHEAT BY ICAR
Oram Shri Jual

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has developed a new variety of wheat that controls the sugar as well as cholesterol level in blood;

(b) if so, the regions where such variety of wheat can be grown;

(c) whether the said variety of wheat is available for sale in the country; and

(d) if not, the steps taken to increase the area under cultivation of the said crop alongwith the sale of such variety of wheat?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA)

(a) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has identified DDK 1029, a dicoccum wheat variety during the 45th All India Wheat and Barley Research Workers` Meet held at Chandra Shekhar Azad University of Agriculture and Technology, Kanpur from 18-21 August, 2006. This variety has been developed by the scientists of University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad, Karnataka. Prior to this, four dicoccum varieties have been released for cultivation, viz., NP 200, DDK 1001, DDK 1009 and DDK 1025.

Scientific studies related to dicoccum wheat carried out in the Department of Food and Nutrition, University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad, revealed that dicoccum wheat is nutritionally superior over commercially available durum and bread wheat in their protein and dietary fibre contents. Products of this wheat have also low digestibility and low glycemic value. Studies on Incorporation of dicoccum whole wheat flour in the diet of diabetic patients resulted in 11% reduction each in total lipids, triglycerides and LDL-cholesterol concentration, over a six week study period (based on DDK 1001). The identified variety DDK 1029 possess about 13% protein content and total dietary fibre of about 20%.

(b) The dicoccum wheat are grown in northern Karnataka, Maharashtra, parts of Andhra Pradesh adjoining Karnataka, Nilgiri hills of Tamil Nadu and Saurashtra region of Gujarat.

(c) & (d): The identified variety is yet to be released and notified by the Central/State Varietal Release Committee. After its release/notification, the seed of this variety will come under seed chain for production of breeder, foundation and certified seeds for cultivation to the farmers.